(d) 29 kilometre length of road had been completed by December, 2006 under this project.

National Cruise Shipping Policy

1888. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to launch National Cruise Shipping Policy to promote tourism;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether under this project, the ports are proposed to be upgraded; and

(d) the details of development of cruise shipping along the Orissa coast under this project?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (d) In order to promote cruise tourism, a Cruise Shipping Policy is under consideration of the Government. The objective of the policy is to make India a major cruise destination by popularizing cruise shipping, facilitating creation of requisite infrastructure and creating a conducive environment.

NHs in hilly areas

†1889. SHRI SAMAN PATHAK: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any scheme to keep the National Highways passing through hilly areas, free from landslides and other accidents;

(b) whether there is any plan to implement the safety arrangement on NHs-55 and 31A; and

(c) whether there is any arrangement of mobile ambulances for these hilly areas?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Measures to prevent landslides and accidents on National Highways passing through hilly areas are implemented as part of improvement and development works undertaken from time to time and it is a continuous process. Clearances of landslides are also taken up as a part of the maintenance activities on the National Highways passing through hilly areas.

(b) Development on NH-31a from Sivoke to Gangtok to two-lane standards with paved shoulders has been programmed under Phase A of Special Accelerated Road Development Programme for the North-Eastern Region (SARDP—NE) and providing safety measures on this National Highway are part of this project. NH-55 is being maintained in traffic worthy conditions within the available fund. Other development works for providing safety on this National Highway have been sanctioned under Annual Plan Programmes.

(c) This Ministry provides ambulances to States/Union Territories/Non-Government Organizations to evacuate victims of accidents to the nearest medical center under National Highways Accidents Relief Service Scheme (NHARSS). During the years 2002-03 to 2004-05, three ambulances have been provided to the Sikkim State.

Proposals from Andhra Pradesh for works on NHs

1890. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the proposals received from Andhra Pradesh for extension/widening/strengthening/repairs of National Highways during the last three years;

(b) the details of action taken thereon, NH-wise;

(c) the details of each such proposal pending with his Ministry stating the reasons for their pendancy; and

(d) the time likely to be taken to clear all the National Highways related pending proposals of the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) The details